

## Became Her True Hero

Love For Woman Shows a Man His Patriotic Duty

By AGNES G. BROGAN

Down the hill, singing all the way, went Rhoda. Long had she dreamed of springtime in the country, and now she was here—here where the first wild flowers peeped through the green, where the hillside brook tumbled noisily.

Halfway down, at the rustic bridge Rhoda paused to look out across the sea. Blue it stretched as far as she could see. She caught its fresh breath on her face and laughed for pure joyous freedom. Out there the boats seemed suspended between sky and sea. Rhoda's laughter turned to sighing as she spied in the distance shapes majestic and sinister. Some of these great boats, she had heard, were to bear away the new recruits for the navy, for over this land of spring and sunshine loomed the dark cloud of war.

Rhoda turned from the sea to look down the nestling hillside. She took out her bit of knitting as she stood to catch a stitch or two. She had promised the Red Cross society at home to send her work to them there. For weeks she and her friends had been making the soft, white bandages, fearing the while, yet underneath their fear still hoping that peace might be proclaimed.

Suddenly, as she gazed downward, Rhoda's eyes, blue as the sea itself, widened wonderingly. There in the sunlight, stretched upon the ground, lay a man's blue clad figure. Huddled up as he was, his bare head cradled on one arm, she could discern the costume of a navy officer or soldier. "Recruiting, perhaps," Rhoda decided. Then slowly and as though painfully the man moved to a sitting posture, while the girl gave a cry of horror, for his other arm was bandaged to the shoulder and the bandage deeply stained with crimson.

At her startled cry the soldier glanced upward, then hastily, and, as though in compunction for frightening her, he drew across the red stained bandage a cloak lying beside him on the ground. Even from that distance Rhoda could see that the man was ghastly pale. His act of unselfish chivalry touched her deeply. How or where in this time of quiet preparation he could have received that bleeding wound she did not know, but her duty was plain—she must hasten at once to his assistance.

She was glad as she hurried along of her few lessons in first aid at the society, but actual need made such a difference. She was dizzy with fear of faintness at the sight of blood. She looked down fearfully at the knitted sponge in her hand. "Of what use if not now?" The soldier raised inquir-



"I SAW YOUR WOUND," RHODA BEGAN ABRUPTLY.

ing eyes to hers, and Rhoda caught her breath in embarrassment. Never had she seen such eyes of pathos, large and dark like those of a pleading spaniel. She fancied he was suffering.

"I saw your wound," Rhoda began abruptly, "before you thoughtfully covered it. And if there is anything I can do to make you comfortable I'd be glad. I've had a few lessons in first aid at the society."

A smile gathered in the depth of the dark eyes. "That's good of you," the man answered, the smile extending whimsically to his lips. "And all the time," he added, "you are wondering how I came to be shot."

"I am more anxious to know now," Rhoda replied, "how I may be of assistance. You are suffering."

The soldier motioned to a mound of pine needles at his side. "The thing is bandaged up, all right," he cheerfully answered her, "and I haven't a pain in the world, but if you would stay with me here just a little while—"

Rhoda studied his face. It was still chalky white. Then she seated herself beside him on the pine needle

cushion. This man was a soldier at heart, she thought admiringly, making light of his suffering condition and shielding its unpleasantness from others.

"You should not be here alone in the hot sun," she said severely and bent, adjusting her own parasol to shade him.

"I come to rest every morning," he told her, "trying to get up energy for the next stunt." He laughed shortly.

Rhoda's pretty brows wrinkled perplexedly. "But I don't understand," she said. "Are you drilling, maneuvering? And how did you come to be injured?"

The man answered briefly, his eyes bent downward. "Explosion," he said. "An explosion of arms?" she asked him.

He nodded. "At practice," he said. The girl clasped her hands about her knees and looked again off over the blue waters.

"Then you know," she said, "just what it is going to mean to face fire, just what you are prepared to do for your country's sake over and over again. I admire a soldier. I admire a brave man." She broke off to laugh tremulously. "Excuse me," said Rhoda; "that was a burst of patriotism." She turned to him. "Are you feeling more sure of yourself? Shall I go?"

The man put out his sound hand, protesting. "Please, not yet," he said. "Then you admire feats of daring? I could tell you some." And he did.

In breathless interest Rhoda listened, while the morning hours slipped all unheeded into a golden noon. There were tales of adventure, the miraculous scaling of high, forbidding cliffs, leaps of recklessness into dark and foaming waters. This wounded man, with his spiritually beautiful face, had accomplished these feats, and more, and when the distant great steel clad ships should sail away into the very mouth of danger he would go, smiling as bravely as he smiled at her now through his pain. Rhoda arose and impulsively held out her hand.

"I do not like to leave you so alone," she said, troubled.

Up the hill came swingingly another seaman's figure. "That's all right," her hero hastily told her. "Barney's coming after me now." But the spaniel look was in his eyes again. "Might I keep the parasol for this afternoon's shade, and if it isn't asking too much, could you stop for it here tomorrow?"

"Why, of course I'll stop," said Rhoda. Up the hill she went thoughtfully. There were glowing spots of pink in her cheeks, brought forth by this young man's tales of brave achievement. There was soft mistiness in the blue eyes, in pity for his patient suffering. And as Rhoda looked for the last time that night at the stars she was still thinking of the cheery, patient young man and of the great ships waiting out there some place in the darkness.

And the man, when she had left him, stretched himself flat upon the ground and, throwing two strong arms above his head, smiled into the rose colored shade of the little silken parasol.

"Time's up," called Barney, approaching. "Come out and get busy." Then as his eyes fell upon the parasol the "navy" whistled. "What the devil!" he said.

"Never you mind what," the young man replied as he scrambled to his feet. "Just you keep away from here when you see anything like a parasol on the landscape. Understand?"

"I do," his friend agreed pleasantly. Rhoda came the next morning, hesitatingly. Several times she had been tempted to break her promise and remain away, but each time the decision was made some invisible, compelling power seemed forcing her on. Now she stood in strange trepidation, looking downward to the nook beside the pine needles. Yes, already there, gleaming in the sunlight, was the rose colored parasol. She drew out her knitting, counting stitches as she came. The young man wore a white navy cap over his wavy hair today, and he raised his head to smile at her.

"Don't ask how I am," he greeted her. "Never felt so well in my life." Rhoda regarded the browned, handsome face. "You look better," she conceded. "And the arm?"

The man shifted uneasily. "Oh, the arm's all right," he said. "Then," suggested the girl, "I'll take my umbrella and go." His eyes were beseeching again. "If you'd let me keep it for a few days," he begged, "just while I'm out here. It's such a comfort, and there isn't one to be found in camp. There were some snapshots, too, that I wanted to show you, taken in the very places I told you about yesterday." He waited diffidently. Then his frank laugh rang out.

"Oh, stay a little while," he said. "It's such a great morning." Again, against her own judgment and will, the invisible power ruled. Rhoda seated herself on the pine needle cushion and put forth her hand for the pictures.

So that morning became but one of many mornings when the two would linger together, smiling into each other's eyes, dreaming contentedly through the silences which followed, while the breath of sea and hillside seemed filled with the sweet enchantment that was slowly infolding them both. Each night Rhoda idealized him as she looked at the stars. His name she knew and his home city—John Radcliff of Boston. But it was of his brave chosen plan of life that she dreamed and of her country's ships in the distance. And he?

John Radcliff looked up at the stars, too, but his was a troubled gaze, for he had learned of Rhoda more than her mere name and home city, and he knew now that if he were to win the girl's love it could not be through de-

reit. So she found him with a white-ness of face that had this morning a convincing appearance of suffering.

It was the first time she had seen him in citizen's clothes, and he seemed in some unaccountable way like a stranger.

"Rhoda," he began sharply, "I have something to tell you."

"I know what it is," she murmured softly. "I read in the paper last night the soldiers, the boats, are leaving tomorrow. You will have to go."

The man spoke deliberately. "No," he said, "I will not have to go. I am not a soldier. It was all a miserable lie, something I allowed you to believe because I wished to keep on seeing you." He turned on her fiercely. "Look here, Rhoda," he cried, "I've had to see you! That day, the first day when your eyes looked down on me in pity, you were to me the sweetest thing in all God's world. I had to know you, to hold you near me, some way. The pretended wound for the time answered the purpose; then in my happiness I let things drift. Dear, look at me

Notice of Registration of Electors. To the electors of the City of Owosso: Take notice, that the Central Board of Registration for the City of Owosso will meet in the office of the City Clerk in the City Hall in the City of Owosso, Michigan, upon the 28th day of July, 1917, for the purpose of registering the qualified electors of the City of Owosso to vote at the special election to be held upon the 31st day of July, 1917, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition to issue bonds for the purpose of motorizing the Fire Department.

Any elector who is not already registered, or who has changed his residence to another ward since last registering will be required to register.

Said Board of Registration will remain in session from 8 o'clock in the forenoon until 8 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Dated July 18th, 1917.

H. HAWCROFT, City Clerk.

Notice of Registration of Women Electors. To the Women Electors of the City of Owosso:

Take notice, that by virtue of a Resolution of the Commission of the City of Owosso adopted July 16, 1917, the central Board of Registration will meet in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Hall in the City of Owosso, Michigan, upon Saturday, July 28, 1917, for the purpose of registering Women Electors for the purpose of voting upon the proposition to issue bonds for \$1750 for the motorizing of the Fire Department.

All women possessors of the qualifications of male electors and having property assessed for taxes within the City of Owosso shall be entitled to registration and vote.

Said Board will remain in session from 8 o'clock a. m. until 8 o'clock p. m. of the same day.

Dated July 18, 1917.

H. Hawcroft, City Clerk.

Notice of Meeting to Determine Necessity.

To Whom It May Concern: Whereas, on the 20th day of July, A. D. 1917, an application was filed with me, the undersigned County Drain Commissioner of the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, for the purpose of widening and straightening of a certain drain, which said drain was described in the said application as follows, to-wit:

Deepening, widening and straightening the Gallagher Drain from the outlet at a point 180 feet south and 11 feet east of the N. 1/4 of section 28 T. 2 N. R. 2 E. to the upper end at a point 25 links south of the N. 1/4 of section 31 T. 2 N. R. 2 E.

Bottom width to be seven (7) feet or less. Which said drain will traverse the following township in said county: Rush.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided, a meeting will be held on the 18th day of August, A. D. 1917, at the County School House, in the Township of Rush, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day for the purpose of hearing evidence by me, the said Drain Commissioner, as to whether or not the said proposed drain is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare. At said meeting any and all persons owning lands liable to assessment for benefits, or whose lands shall be crossed by said drain, may appear for or against said proceedings, and may be heard in relation thereto.

ALONZO GRIFFIN, County Drain Commissioner of the County of Shiawassee.

Dated at Corunna, this 21st day of July, A. D. 1917.

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Commencing in the proposed re-located State Road drain at a point where it intersects the N. 1/4 of sec 28 T. 2 N. R. 2 E. thence west on north side of A. R. 1 right of way on land owned by G. R. Loyne to section line between line 31 and 32 thence north about 30 rods on section line thence westerly on land owned by E. E. Schaefer about 10 rods to west line of said land thence west about 10 rods south about 10 rods to north side of A. R. 1 thence west along north side of A. R. 1 about 30 rods thence south across A. R. 1 and highway thence westerly following the line of a drain known as the Purvis Drain on the N. 1/4 of sec 31 T. 2 N. R. 2 E. to the N. 1/4 of sec 32 T. 2 N. R. 2 E. thence west on the N. 1/4 of sec 32 T. 2 N. R. 2 E. to south line of said description which shall be the terminus.

Terminating at a point on the line between land owned by J. C. Banghart and A. Purvis about 50 rods east of the west township line.

Bottom width to be eight (8) feet or less. Which said drain will traverse the following townships in said county: Rush and Owosso.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided, a meeting will be held on the 18th day of August, A. D. 1917, at the residence of Calvin Willoughby in the Township of Rush at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day for the purpose of hearing evidence by me, the said Drain Commissioner, as to whether or not the said proposed drain is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare. At said meeting any and all persons owning lands liable to assessment for benefits, or whose lands shall be crossed by said drain, may appear for or against said proceedings, and may be heard in relation thereto.

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Dated at Corunna, Michigan, this 21st day of July, A. D. 1917.

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Dated at Corunna, Michigan, this 21st day of July, A. D. 1917.

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Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Frederick

Swanson, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate do hereby give notice that we will meet at the office of G. F. Friege in the City of Owosso in said County on Tuesday the 4th day of September, A. D. 1917, and on Monday, the 5th day of July, A. D. 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate and that four months from the 30th day of June, A. D. 1917, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 3rd day of July, A. D. 1917.

FRANK PORTER, NEIL R. WALSH, Commissioners.

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Commissioners' Notice.

State of Michigan, The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

In the matter of the estate of Orrilla Ladue, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the Union State Bank in the Village of Lansingburg, in said County, on Tuesday, the 31st day of August, A. D. 1917, and on Monday, the 2nd day of October, A. D. 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 30th day of June, A. D. 1917, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated, the 30th day of June, A. D. 1917.

JAMES D. HODGKINSON, FRANK R. SMITH, Commissioners.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Cressa E. Stuart, deceased.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the Owosso Savings Bank in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Friday, the 7th day of September, A. D. 1917, and on Wednesday, the 7th day of November, A. D. 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 30th day of June, A. D. 1917, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 6th day of July, A. D. 1917.

ASA D. WHIPPLE, MORRIS W. SOUTHWARD, Commissioners.

## NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The 25th Judicial Circuit in Chancery.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee at the City of Corunna, on the 9th day of March, 1917.

Sadie Nell McGuilvra, Plaintiff,</